



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-04-76

PSC SETS LOCAL PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE IN AQUILA NATURAL GAS RATE CASE

Jefferson City (November 4, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold local public hearings in **Maryville, Platte City, Nevada, Rolla, Marshall** and **Sedalia** to receive customer comment on a natural gas rate case filed by Aquila, Incorporated d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P. The hearing schedule appears below:

Maryville

January 6

Noon*

Northwest Mo. State University
800 University Drive
3rd Floor Jones Student Union
Room F

Platte City

January 6

5:00 pm*

Conference Rm., Comfort Inn
1200 Highway 92

Nevada

January 15

6:00 pm*

Council Chambers
Public Safety Bldg.
120 S. Ash St.

Rolla

January 20

6:00 pm*

City Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
102 West 9th Street

Marshall

January 26

Noon*

City Council Chambers
Marshall City Hall
214 N. Lafayette Street

Sedalia

January 26

6:00 pm*

City Council Chambers
Municipal Building
2nd & Osage Streets

NOTE: *The PSC Staff will conduct a general information session starting at this time to answer any questions customers may have. The information session will be followed by the local public hearing.

These local public hearings will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Any person who needs additional accommodations to participate in these hearings should call the Public Service Commission's Hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711 prior to the hearing.

Local public hearings give customers of the Company an opportunity to comment on the rate proposal currently before the Public Service Commission. In addition, customers can bring any service related problems to the attention of the Commission.

(more)

Aquila is seeking to increase annual natural gas revenues by approximately \$5.6 million in its Aquila Networks-MPS system and by approximately \$810,000 in its Aquila Networks-L&P system. Under the proposal, Aquila states a typical Aquila Networks-MPS residential customer using 802 Ccf (a Ccf equals 100 cubic feet) of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$9.03 a month or \$108.36 a year. Under the proposal, a typical Aquila Networks-L&P residential customer using 863 Ccf of natural gas a year would have an increase of \$8.33 a month or \$99.96 a year.

This rate case reflects what are called the non-gas costs of providing service to customers. Non-gas costs are generally operating and maintenance expenses and a return on investment in plant (such as natural gas mains and service lines that carry natural gas to the customer's home or business). The Missouri Public Service Commission does not regulate gas costs or rates that are charged to Aquila for natural gas by wholesale suppliers. The Commission does perform a regulatory review to ensure that regulated natural gas companies such as Aquila make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Aquila Networks-L&P serves approximately 6,000 natural gas customers in the former St. Joseph Light & Power service area. Aquila Networks-MPS serves approximately 46,000 natural gas customers in the former service area of Missouri Public Service.

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